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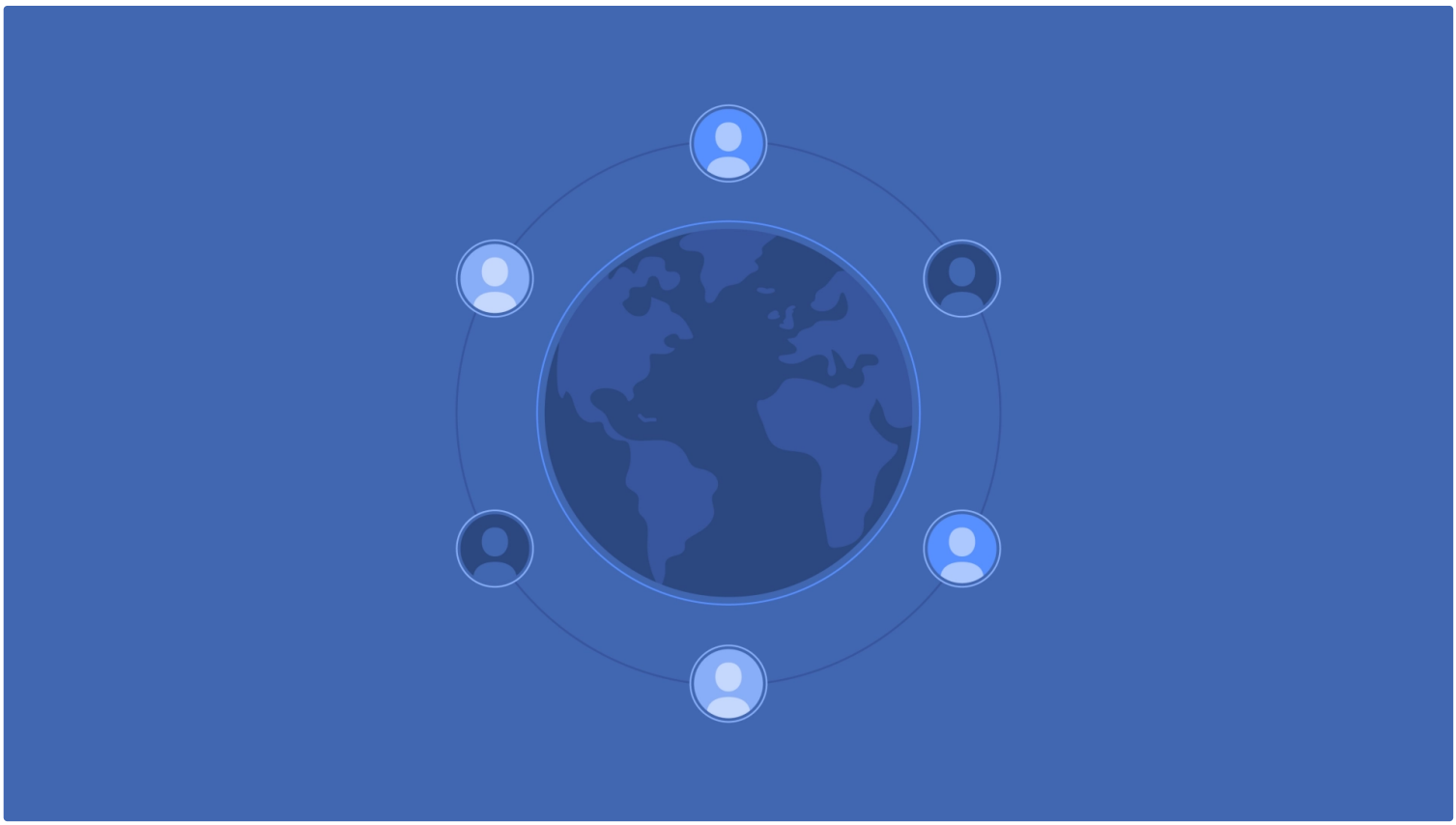
Facebook

Charting a Course for an Oversight Board for Content Decisions

January 28, 2019
Nick Clegg



By Nick Clegg, VP of Global Affairs and Communications

In November, Mark Zuckerberg wrote about his vision for how content should be governed and enforced on Facebook. He laid out a plan for a new way for people to appeal content decisions to an independent body. Today we're releasing a draft charter giving more detail about its potential make-up.

As we build out the board we want to make sure it is able to render independent judgment, is transparent and respects privacy. After initial consultation and deliberation, we've proposed a basic scope and structure that's outlined in this draft charter. We've also identified key decisions that still need to be made, like the number of members, length of terms and how cases are selected.

We'll look to answer these questions over the next six months in a series of workshops around the world where we will convene experts and organizations who work on a range of issues such as free expression, technology and democracy, procedural fairness and human rights. We'll host these workshops in Singapore, Delhi, Nairobi, Berlin, New York, Mexico City and many more cities — soliciting feedback on how best to design a board that upholds our principles and brings independent judgment to hard cases.

At the same time, we know that we won't be able to reach all stakeholders through regional workshops alone. More importantly, we don't want to limit input or feedback to a hand-picked group of experts that we work with frequently. We're interested in hearing from a wide range of organizations, think tanks, researchers and groups who might have proposals for how we should answer these critical questions. We'll be announcing more about how proposals can be submitted in the coming weeks.

We look forward to getting additional input in how best to build a board that creates accountability and oversight of our content policy and enforcement decisions and will continue to share milestones and progress.

An Oversight Board to Review Facebook's Content Decisions

When reviewing content on Facebook, some decisions go to the core of how we balance safety and free expression. We believe these decisions are too consequential for Facebook to make alone. An oversight board will review these decisions.

What will the board do?

- Provide oversight of Facebook's content decisions
- Reverse Facebook's decisions when necessary
- Be an independent authority outside of Facebook

Who will be on the board?

A global group with expertise in diverse disciplines and a commitment to safety and free expression.

They will be obligated to the people who use Facebook—not Facebook the company.

What issues will they discuss?

Our most difficult and contested decisions about taking down or leaving up content.

Some issues could be artistic expression, suspected hate speech or bullying.

How will the board be formed?

Facebook has begun consulting with experts, and will continue to provide updates through a multi-phased process in 2019.

Consulting with experts
Running global workshops on the board's design
Soliciting public proposals
Reviewing input from all external sources
Formation and first session of an oversight board

How will the board and Facebook inform the public moving forward?

- Provide regular updates on the board's design
- Publish the charter and decision making process
- Announce all members
- Publish its decisions

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Draft Charter

Infographic

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Global Feedback and Input on the Facebook Oversight Board for Content Decisions

We hosted six in-depth workshops and 22 roundtables attended by more than 650 people from 88 different countries who pushed us to consider multiple angles for how this board could function and be designed.

June 27, 2019

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